

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Pellerin et al.
Serial Number: Not Yet Assigned (continuation of 10/740,296)
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Filed: April 14, 2004
Examiner: Unknown
Title: VALVE STEM INSTALLATION SYSTEM AND METHOD OF
INSTALLING VALVE STEM
Attorney Docket No.: 60,568-034

NOTICE OF REQUESTED INTERFERENCE PROCEEDING

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby requests an Interference Proceeding be initiated between Applicant's present application and United States Patent Application No. 10/264,746 filed October 4, 2002 as a continuation-in-part of United States Patent No. 6,481,083 filed June 25, 1999. It is Applicant's belief that the claimed invention of each of these pending applications was first invented by Applicant.

Applicant sets forth below prima facie evidence in compliance with Rule 608(b) establishing a priority of inventorship. Applicant first became aware of Publication No. US2003/0051326 corresponding to Application No. 10/264,746 upon receipt of a letter from attorneys for Burke E. Porter Machinery Company dated March 9, 2004 and shown in Exhibit 1. Applicant conceived of a robotic valve installation tool having a gauging station to determine location of an aperture, coaxially aligning a central axis of the aperture and a longitudinal axis of a valve stem with respect to one another, and moving the valve stem

relative to the rim along a programmable path of travel during the coaxially aligning step where the path of travel is defined with a programmable robotic manipulator having an arm capable of compound multi-axial movement at least as early as May 31, 2002 as shown in Exhibit 2. Exhibit 2 represents an electronic data storage element and shows the date a drawing of the claimed invention was created by the inventors as being May 25, 2002. The drawing created on May 25, 2002 shows all of the elements recited in the claims submitted with this continuation application.

Exhibit 3 shows a proposal made to General Motors on May 31, 2003 by Schenck Motorama Inc., the predecessor in interest to Durr Production Systems. On page 6, under Section 2, titled "Concepts Overview," subsection 2.1, Option 1 was presented for a TPMS and standard stemmer (valve stem installation device) using a Fanuc R-2000iA robot known to be capable of compound, multi-axial movement and having a plurality of programmed paths. More specifically, in section 2.1, Applicant's invention is summarized by the text:

This option utilizes a GM standard size robot. (2) Robots in line with TPM tooling consists of the TPM holding device nut feeding and nut runner mounted to the end of the robot. Inspection station and vision systems will send the required offset to the robot for proper stem insertion of either TPMS or STD rubber stem.

Furthermore, section 2.1.1 titled "Wheel Identification" describes the gauging station recited in the claims of the present continuation application and is summarized by:

This station will be prior to entrance of the stemming station consisting of bar code or vision systems, based on plant and production provisions (some products have a bar code prior to delivery to GM).

Station relays crucial information to the stemming station, such as style of stem, size and dimensional information that is required for stemming.

Additionally, the drawing shown in Exhibit 4, and labeled Option No. 1, was submitted along with the proposal made to General Motors on May 31, 2002 showing each of

the elements recited in the claims submitted with the continuation application pursuant to the drawing created on May 25, 2002.

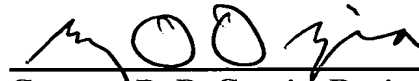
CONCLUSION

The drawing date submitted above, namely May 25, 2002, predates the filing date of the continuation-in-part application Serial No. 10/264,746 which was filed October 4, 2002 by several months. Moreover, General Motors is widely known to submit proposals made by one supplier to other competitive suppliers to obtain more complete quotes prior to selecting a source for particular manufacturing projects. The invention claimed in Application Serial No. 10/264,746 was submitted to General Motors on May 31, 2002, which is several months prior to the filing date of Application Serial No. 10/264,746. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that prima facie evidence exists indicating the invention recited in the claims submitted in Applicant's continuation application was invented prior to October 4, 2002. Therefore, Applicant hereby requests an Interference Proceeding be initiated between applications based upon the prima facie evidence set forth above prior to issuing Application No. 10/264,746. Alternatively, Applicant hereby requests an Interference Proceeding be initiated between Applicant's continuation application and any patent issued from Application Serial No. 10/264,746 upon issuance.

Although it is believed that no fee is due for the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayments regarding this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

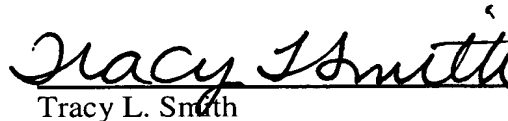


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Dated: April 14, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Notice of Requested Interference Proceeding** and fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label No. **EL997490057US** and addressed to **Mail Stop Patent Application**, Commissioner of Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **April 14, 2004**.


Tracy L. Smith

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Atty. Docket No. 60,568-034

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner: Unknown
Title: VALVE STEM INSTALLATION SYSTEM AND METHOD OF
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Attorney Docket No.: 60,568-034

AFFIDAVIT OF INVENTION

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

1. At least as early as May 25, 2002, I instructed the inventors of the present application to invent a valve installation assembly where a location of an aperture in a wheel rim is determined relative to a gauging station; a central axis of the aperture and a longitudinal axis of a valve stem as aligned with respect to one another prior to insertion of the valve stem through the aperture; and the valve stem is moved relative to the rim along a programmable path of travel during the coaxial aligning step along the aligned axis to insert the valve stem through the aperture, wherein the path of travel defined with a programmable robotic manipulator includes an arm capable of compound, multi-axial movement and has a plurality of program paths corresponding to a plurality of different size wheel rims and valve stem combinations to be assembled.

Any. Docket No. 60,568-034

2. A computer aided design drawing was created on May 25, 2002 showing each of the inventive concepts set forth in paragraph 1 and of the recited claims of the present application.

3. On May 31, 2002, I submitted to General Motors Corporation on behalf of Schenck Motorama Inc., a predecessor in interest to Durr Production Systems, Inc. a proposal for a robotic stemmer under heading "# 99347."

4. The proposal made to General Motors for the robotic stemmer disclosed and detailed an alternative embodiment to the General Motors request for quotation under Option 1, paragraph 2.1 and paragraph 2.1.1, reciting all of the elements set forth in paragraph 1.

5. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application of any patent issued thereon.

DURR PRODUCTION SYSTEMS, INC.

By: 
Ben Giaccone